THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Preparations for the Commonwealth Games include multiple projects and activities which are being handled by Organizing Committee, the DDA, the NCT Delhi Government and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. There is no restriction on the use of foreign expertise by the stake holders, subject to their following transparent procedures.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in the light of (a) above.

Stipend to players and athletes

1933. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of players and athletes getting monthly stipend from Central Government for their brilliant performance, State-wise;

(b) the rates of different kinds of stipends; and

(c) the manner in which it would help to develop the standard of performances in terms of the international year-stick?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) There is a Scheme of 'Incentives for Promotion of Sports Activities' under which Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons is one of the components. Those sportspersons who are Indian citizens and have won medals in Olympic Games, World Cup/World Championships, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Para-Olympic Games, are given life pension from the age of 30 years after they have retired from an active sports career. At present, 352 sportspersons are getting pensions under this component.

(b) The rates for different kinds of pensions are as under:—

1.	Medalists at the Olympic Games	Rs. 5000/- p.m.
2.	Gold medalists at the World Cups/ World Championships in Olympics and Asian Games disciplines.	Rs. 4000/- p.m.

3.	Silver and Bronze medalist of the World Cups/World Championships in Olympics and Asian Games disciplines	Rs. 3500/- p.m.
4.	Gold medalists of the Asian/Commonwealth Games	Rs. 3500/- p.m.
5.	Silver and Bronze medalists of Asian/ Commonwealth Games	Rs. 3000/- p.m.
6.	Gold medalists of Para-Olympic Games	Rs. 2500/- p.m.
7.	Silver medalists of Para-Olympic Games	Rs. 2000/- p.m.
8.	Bronze medalists of Para-Olympic Games	Rs. 1500/- p.m.

(c) The Scheme of 'Sport Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons' has been designed to give a message to all talented sportspersons who aspire to become champions at the international level that Government will reward their achievement with life-time assistance in the form of pensions. Thus, the scheme is an indirect incentive for motivating sportspersons to raise the standard of their performance in terms of international yardsticks.

UK Assistance for Commonwealth Games

1934. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom has offered to share expertise and assist Delhi in its "legacy planning" for the Commonwealth Games 2010 by proposing the Manchester modal of using the games to boost tourism, investments and infrastructure; and

(b) If so, the details of the offer received and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While no formal or detailed proposal has been received, the UK Government have invited the Indian Minister to visit Manchester in this connection.